NHS girls post playoff win

By John Middlekauff

Northern's Girls Basketball team made a too short, but heroic excursion into the P.I.A.A. District #3, Class AAA Basketball playoffs.

It was heroic, because on Thursday (3/1) the Lady Bears came back from a huge deficit to post Northern's first-ever playoff victory by defeating a very competitive Eastern York team 51-47. It became short-lived when, on Saturday (3/3) Northern fell to top-seeded Lancaster Catholic 68-37.

Against the Lady Knights of East York, the entire first half Northern's play was, according to Coach Rick Speck, "Just like we played the last three games of the regular season". In doing so, the Lady Bears dug a hole for themselves that they almost could not get out of. Trailing 26-14 at half-time, things didn't improve very much by the end of the third quarter as Northern was down 42-28. When Rick Speck called a time-out late in the third quarter, for all purposes it should have been for the last time in 1989-90. What happened after that time-out, is usually staff movies are made of! Northern turned up their pressure defense and turned on its offense to outscore Eastern 23-5 in the fourth quarter to pull out this big win. Certainly all of the Northern girls are to be commended for reaching down and pulling themselves up by the boot-straps, and you simply cannot ignore the effort put forth by Senior Becky Minnich. Playing as if possessed, Becky scored all 11 of her game high 19 points in the final stanza to fuel the Polar Bears offense. The sensational comeback by the Northern Girls has been documented as among the very best in district play.

It was to a very relieved coach, "The best half we played all year and the team I thought we would be all year."

Unfortunately, the "high" from that victory wasn't enough to sustain the girls in their second playoff game. Actually the term "David vs. Goliath" is really the story here. Lancaster Catholic has been a dominate force in Division 3, and in the State for that matter, for the last few years. The Lady Crusaders have a big team. No less than four of their starters are at least 6'1", and that in part contributes to their being ranked number one in District 3, Class AAA girls basketball circles. Lancaster Catholic played Trinity very early in the season, and smacked the Lady Shamrock's by twenty points. Everyone knows how much trouble Northern had against Trinity this past season, so the Lady Bears had their work cut out for them. Here is how Coach Speck summed up the game, "I thought our kids played them tough the first half. We made them play our kind of game. We were disciplined at the start in breaking their press, and we worked our offense." Northern trailed L.C. by only six points late in the first half, when the Lady Crusaders went on a run that Northern could not match."

There isn't a whole lot you can do when a team shoots close to 50%, and can go inside as well as outside any time they want" was Rick's analysis.

It is really too bad that Northern's seasonal record of 13-10 put them into the same bracket as Lancaster Catholic, because the Lady Bears had a legitimate shot at making it to the State playoff round. Then it is really too bad that this group of talented young ladies, picked by their peers to win their division, forget two important lessons-team and teamwork are not spelled with an "I". Some of the problems that this group was forced to overcome should have never been there at all! But that is what life is all about-to live and learn, but in athletics you sometimes only get that one chance to prove that you were the best that you could be.

The 1990-91 season is a long way off, but the prospects for Northern Girls Basketball look very exciting. Sure Amy, Becky, Kay, Kelly and Nancy will be gone. They will be missed, but there is plenty of returning talent, as well as some very fine prospects from the J.V. and Junior High squads to make the Lady Polar Bears very competitive.

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Polar Bear wrestlers close season with win

By John Middlekauff

The Northern High School Wrestling Team really put an exclamation point on their season of 1989-90, when they slapped the Biglerville Cougars 33-19 in the season finale. It makes a big statement for the Polar Bears, because Biglerville was the champion of the Blue Mountain League. This year and had posted a great season.

It was the middle of Northern's line-up that provided the punch in this well deserved victory. Joel Yohs picked up the first points for the Polar Bears as he gained a 2-2 draw at 112 lbs. Then beginning with Jerry Sterner's victory (9-3) at 125 lbs., the Bears were off and running. Following Jerry's win, Northern picked up some big points at 130 lb. when Mike Vaughn pulled off a 3-2 squeaker. This was followed by Matt Ayers 9-3 win at 135 lbs., Steve Millery's 11-1 win at 140 lbs., Chris Bentley's third period fall, and Dave Habowski's decision at 152 lbs. Northern's remaining points came from Bryan Baxter's decision at 189 lb. and Jamie Lebarres second period fall at 275 lb.

All in all, an excellent performance by the Bears that did not escape their coach, Clair Rudisill. "I thought our guys did an excellent job," was his observation.

With the regular season now over, the pursuit of a chance to go to the State Championships now takes over. This past weekend found Northern Wrestlers participating in Section III, Class AAA tournament held at Big Spring High School. In team scoring, Northern finished fourth with 93 points, and advanced four wrestlers into next week's regional matches. Advancing to the next round will be sectional champions Jerry Sterner (119) and Chris Bentley (140), along with runner-up Dave Habowski (145), and Consolation winner Bryan Baxter (160). We wish these gentlemen alot of success in the next go-round!

WITF

NOVA probes the mysteries of Easter Island, the most isolated inhabited place on Earth, in "Secrets of Easter Island," airing Tuesday, March 13 at 8:00 p.m. on WITF-TV33.

Located at the center of an empty expanse of the South Pacific, Easter Island is a tiny volcanic island in the most remote area of the world's largest ocean.

"BARNUM," a lavish and loving biographical musical comedy about American legend P.T. Barnum, will air on Sunday, March 11 at 2:30 on WITF-TV33.

THE METROPOLITAN OPERA will celebrate fifty years of Texaco-Metropolitan Opera radio broadcasts with a special concert, "50th Anniversary Celebration," to be heard on Saturday, March 10 at 1:30 p.m. on WITF-FM89.5.

Deb's Country Corner

Hello County Folks!

Here we are in the first full week of March. Can spring be far behind? I'm still worried about my flowers and fruit trees. From what I read in the paper, the orchard growers are too. Come August, we may be buying those Washington State apples again.

Have any of you ever worked in an orchard? I never have, but I remember my mother telling me stories about it. Apples were so heavy they about broke your back, and peaches were so fuzzy that by the end of the day you almost itched to death. Of course the wages were fantastic. I think she said something like 25 cents a day was the going rate. Around your neck was a canvas bag to drop the fruit in, then you climbed a 20 foot ladder balanced precariously on the top limbs, and hoped you would be able to come back down with 30 pounds of fruit draped over your middle. Gee-sure ain't my idea of a fun time!

We are so lucky living in the middle of all this orchard country, though. We take our fresh apples, peaches and cherries for granted sometimes. Every time I stop by one of the many local fruit stands, it takes me back to a memory of a general store. Remember those? You don't have to be THAT old. The kind of place where at least 1/3 of the merchandise was out on the porch on display? Nowadays you'd have to be crazy to leave anything outside and not nailed down, but in those days, shopkeepers actually trusted their customers enough to let the stuff sit out. Shovels, rakes, bins of apples, potatoes and fruit in season were all outside on the porch. A sort of modified advertising.

The store I remember was a tiny, one room place along Route 94 between Mt. Holly and Gardners. Low ceilings, and worn wooden floors, it sold the essential stuff that you were always running out of. The stuff you didn't want to run to "town" to buy. Milk, bread, eggs, some canned goods, a little hardware, penny candy (boy, I really am showing my age there), and a few toys for the kids to gawk at. I don't think Mr. Moose ever actually sold any of those toys, because they were dusty and in the same place every time, but they sure were dazzling for young eyes to see. I remember one especially. A large doll with long brown hair and eyes that actually closed when she was lying down. That's it. She didn't wet, cry, talk, walk, and was not anatomically correct. And I actually thought she was the most magnificent doll I had ever seen. My, how times have changed.

Moose's general store had big apple bins. I remember the smell of them. Apples, old wood, a "cider-y" smell from the one or two bad ones laying off to the side, mixed with the other store scents of tobacco, coal oil (there I go again, showing my age-I'm sure only half of you even know what coal oil is) and the sweet smell of Bazooka bubble gum. I don't know how all that could be a fond memory, but it is.

Our recipe for this week uses some of those apples, and since it's still cold enough outside to do some baking, combines a "Pennsylvania Dutch" dumpling dough with them.

Apple Dumplings

4 medium sized baking apples, peeled and cored
1/2 cup sugar
2 T cinnamon
1 egg
1 T vinegar
2 T sugar
dash salt
3 cups flour
1/2 cup solid shortening
about 1/2 cup cold water

Mix egg, vinegar, 2 T of sugar, and dash of salt together. Slowly mix in the flour and shortening, adding just enough cold water to form a dough. Work it thoroughly and place in refrigerator overnight or at least a couple of hours. Next day, divide dough into four portions, roll out flat, and place one of the cored apples in the middle. Fill the cored out portion with enough of the sugar/cinnamon mixture to fill to the top. Bring the sides of the dough around the apple and seal tightly by moistening the overlaying flaps of dough with a touch of water. Place in a large baking dish and bake at 400 degrees for about 1 hour.

I'm still waiting to hear from you readers. Please send me some of your favorite recipes, household hints, or memories. I'll share them with other readers. Write to me in care of The Banner.

Our household hint for the week: Got scuff marks on your no-wax floor? Use one of those nylon pot scrubbers made for cleaning teflon pans. They scrub off the scuff without marring the floor. Remember. Not only is a woman's work never done, but the definition keeps changing.

Bye for this week,
Deb Westbrook
Deb's Country Corner

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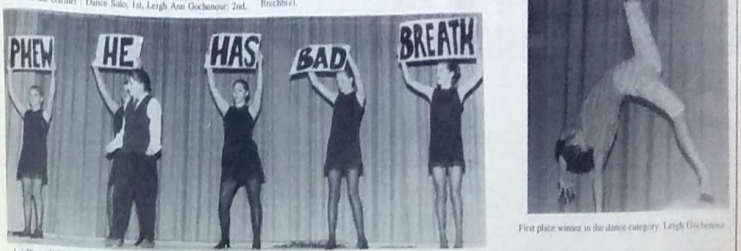
NMS 4th ANNUAL TALENT SHOW

The Northern Middle School held its 4th Annual Talent Show this past Thursday, March 1.

Judging the show were: Mr. Mikes, Mrs. Luckenbaugh and Mrs. Shank, faculty members; Becki Myers, Lisa Garrett and Jessica Kelley, student council members.

Winners were: Singing, 1st place, Liz Felix; Instrumental, 1st, Kate Kolb on the clarinet; Dance Solo, 1st, Leigh Ann Gochenour; 2nd, Jessie Stiffler and 3rd, Tracy Gaeman; Dance Group, 1st, Wendy Hanmaker and Kristine Heffelfinger tied with Lisa Noll and Angie Flohr; 2nd, Dan Eulinoks and Jenny Jones; and 3rd, Renee Terzis and Nicole Naclerio; Lip Sinc Category, 1st, Hilary March, Kate Francis, Erica Smink, Billie Jo Troup, Trista Eng; Tassie Patton, 2nd, Willie Barry, 3rd, Patrick Hicks, Keith Graffius, Dennis O'Brien and Scott Brickbiel.



First place winner in the dance category, Leigh Gochenour.

1st Place Winners in the Lip Sinc Category. Hilary March portrayed Robert Palmer in his rendition of "Simply Irresistable". Tracie Patton, Trista Eng, Billie Jo Troup, Erica Smink, Kate Francis (left to right) are members of the band.

Willie Barry, 2nd place winner in Lip Sinc, did Weird Al's "One more minute."

Third place winners in Lip Sinc, Patrick Hicks and Scott Brickbiel did the Rolling Stones popular hit "Stuck between a rock and a hard place".

Tied for first place in the Dance Group are Wendy Hanmaker and Kristine Heffelfinger.

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